

APPROVED MINUTES
PINE TOWNSHIP BOARD MEETING
MONDAY, APRIL 13, 2026

CALL TO ORDER

The meeting was called to order at 7:01 PM by Drews, followed by the Pledge of Allegiance and prayer.

PRESENT: William Drews, Supervisor; Marla Sprague, Clerk; Misty VanGessel, Treasurer; Darcy Krause, Trustee;
Rodney Palmer, Trustee

ABSENT: None

STAFF PRESENT: Barbara Kaaikala, Deputy Clerk; Steve Buchholz, Zoning Administrator

APPROVAL OF AGENDA

Palmer moved, supported by VanGessel, to approve the agenda.

MOTION CARRIED

PUBLIC COMMENT ON AGENDA ITEMS

Dewey Flynn, Birch Landing – disputed timing/lack of communication from attorney to residents, with no public meeting, a bill that arrived with no financial breakdown and two weeks to pay at a cost above what had been previously quoted, or face loss of the property.

Scott Gladding, Birch Landing, concerned why the cost went from \$500.00 last year to \$1,200.00 for one lot/\$2,400.00 for two lots this year.

Julie Messman, Birch Landing, shared similar concerns.

All three shared concerns about relationships with neighbors.

APPROVAL OF MARCH 9, 2026 MEETING MINUTES

Palmer moved, supported by Krause, to approve the minutes as written.

MOTION CARRIED

REPORTS

- **Treasurer/Financial Reports/Bank Update (on file)**

Treasurer report was provided. Settlement balanced/completed.

Krause moved, supported by Palmer, to approve the report.

MOTION CARRIED

- **Zoning Administrator Report – Steve Buchholz, Zoning Administrator**

2 zoning permits were issued and 4 land division applications were received in March.

Blight letter sent to Cross on Middle Lake, citation to be issued if not corrected.

Will send letter to Mr. *Wireman (Wiggins) corr 5/11/26*, the owner and renter of 4 campers in Langston, citation if not corrected.

Moore *lake resident, Mrs Lichtman (corr 5/11/26)* reports that she will have cabin torn down as soon as weather permits. Drews requests a time frame for teardown.

Drews noted a severe blight issue on Gravel Ridge.

Buchholz has blight complaint forms available for anyone who would like to file a complaint.

Has been training with IWorks, the zoning software company – the software will be very helpful.

VanGessel moved, supported by Krause, to approve the report.

MOTION CARRIED

- **Road Report – Bill Drews, Township Supervisor**

Contracts have been received and work will begin soon. Drews has requested MDOT install a double yellow line in Langston.

VanGessel moved, supported by Krause, to approve the report.

MOTION CARRIED

- **Fire District Report – Bill Drews, Township Supervisor**

21 runs in March, 2 being in Pine Township (wires down). 16 burn permits were issued.

VanGessel moved, supported by Krause, to approve the report.

MOTION CARRIED

- **Cemetery Report – Marla Sprague, Township Clerk**

3 cremains burials scheduled and 3 lots sold in Riverside Cemetery; an April 20 burial is scheduled in West Pine Cemetery.

Palmer moved, supported by VanGessel, to approve the report.

MOTION CARRIED

- **Library Board Report (Jamie Gorby/Jeremy Korpai)**

No representative present

- **Supervisor Report – Bill Drews**

New Rainbow Lake Association representative is Melissa Flannigan from Pine Township.

A commercial chicken operation will be coming to 5892 Stutzman near Fitzner off Lake Montcalm in Pine Township.

VanGessel moved, supported by Krause, to approve the report.

MOTION CARRIED

- **Clerk Report – Marla Sprague**

Montcalm MTA meeting 6:00 PM Thursday at Road Commission in Stanton.

Presented a bid from Pitcher Perfect for grub and mole control on Township properties.

VanGessel moved, supported by Palmer, to approve the report.

MOTION CARRIED

- **Planning Commission Update – Darcy Krause**

Ethan Senti of McKenna company presented the PC with potential resident/property owner survey questions, which were then discussed by the PC. Senti will bring the updated survey questions to the July Planning Commission meeting.

At PC request, James Hohler will upload the blight complaint form to the township website for access by Township residents.

VanGessel moved, supported by Palmer to approve the report.

MOTION CARRIED

OLD BUSINESS

- **Birch Landing Lot 1 – Deeds/Date**

Drews explained the process that led up to the recent letter and bill that was sent to owners whose property borders Birch Landing Lot 1.

Drews has deeds available as soon as owners desire to sign the document and pay the bill. Flynn, Gladding, and Messman stated that they intend to sign the deed and pay the bill.

Sprague moved, supported by Palmer, to set May 1, 2026 as the final date for deed signing, after which the parcel will be open for *purchase acquiring (corr 5/11/26)* by other property owners.

MOTION CARRIED

Dawn Sweet – The board handled tough issues with compassion and grace tonight.

James Hohler – Questioned whether owners of multiple properties will have the ability to submit multiple Master Plan surveys.

Steve Buchholz – When the phone number is called (number is on Township road sign and website), the individual is referred back to the Township

Dewey Flynn – Is purchasing property on Cannonsville Road to turn into a short term rental

FINAL BOARD COMMENTS

Drews thanked Hohler for solving the phone problem at the Township Hall and the Board for their understanding of the attorney fee situation.

ADJOURNMENT

VanGessel moved, supported by Sprague, to adjourn the meeting at 9:14 PM.

MOTION CARRIED

Respectfully submitted,

Marla Sprague
Pine Township Clerk

Minutes typed by Barbara Kaaikala